

From: Jonathan S Talbot
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 2:02am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed microsoft settlement as it currently stands. Let there be no doubt about Microsoft's widespread influence, as evidenced by their popular windows OS. My primary complaint lies with the fact that the problems associated with Microsoft's monopoly are not being adequately addressed in this settlement. For example, in the interest of protecting "intellectual property," Microsoft is not required to reveal protocol or interface information, thereby hampering competing software companies from developing products compatible with Microsoft's windows OS. This is akin to a hypothetical automobile manufacturer who develops a monopoly via an outrageous volume of vehicle sales, and is allowed to produce inferior parts that require frequent replacement (to that company's benefit), while simultaneously inhibiting production of better quality replacement parts by competing manufactures, because the part specifications of the monopolistic company are protected in the name of "intellectual property." Unless Microsoft is required to release such information, without the controlling nature and costs associated with licenses, their monopoly is not limited and is in fact enabled. In the interest of permitting competitors to produce better "parts" for the omnipresent windows OS, which would better serve the general public AND Microsoft, as well as helping to preserve the viability of such competitors, this settlement must be modified accordingly. Such a change would control costs for consumers and more appropriately restrict the monopolistic influence of Microsoft. Personally, I appreciate the ability to choose new auto parts, at discounted prices, and from a variety of manufacturers, and I would like the same privilege with my computer.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan S. Talbot
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